



MEDIA RELEASE

Robbery & Battery Arrest, Suspect Attacks Two Women

SANTA BARBARA, CA – July 12, 2012

On July 10, 2012, at 7:46 p.m., Officer Tiffany Keller, Officer Tom Eccles, Officer Matt Tonello, and Officer Tyler Larson responded to a call of a battery that had just occurred in the vicinity of 00 E. Victoria Street. Upon arrival Officer Keller contacted a 33-year old female victim who stated that at 7:40 p.m. she parked her vehicle mid-block on 1300 Anacapa Street. As she was exiting she noticed the suspect, later identified as 38-year old Yemane Abraham, staring at her and approaching from across the street. The victim said she quickly started to walk southbound on Anacapa Street toward her residence. Upon hearing Abraham's footsteps behind her she turned to look, and at that moment felt Abraham pull forcefully on her purse which was attached to her arm by her purse strap. Terrified, the victim struck Abraham with her elbow and screamed for help. Abraham struck the victim on the head with a coffee cup and then fled. He was unsuccessful in stealing the purse.

While speaking to the first victim, Officer Keller was notified by SBPD Dispatch of a possible second victim. Officer Keller contacted that person, a 23-year old woman who stated that at 7:55 p.m. she was walking eastbound on 00 W. Mission Street when Abraham quickly walked past her from behind, abruptly turned, and then spit in her face. Shocked, the victim wiped her face and then removed one of her shoes and held it in her hand to defend herself. Abraham forcefully kicked the victim on the shin causing her to drop to her knees in pain. The victim threw her shoe at Abraham; however it did not strike him. Abraham then used his left elbow to strike the victim across her right eye and the bridge of her nose. Abraham then walked away.

At 8:40 p.m. Officer Larson saw Abraham walking northbound on 2200 State Street. Officer Larson recognized Abraham based on the description of him provided by the victims. With the assistance of his canine partner, Hondo, Officer Larson stopped Abraham and detained him. Officer Eccles and Officer Tonello responded to assist. In-field show-ups were conducted with both victims; both positively identified Abraham as their attacker. Abraham was arrested and transported to the Santa Barbara Police Department. Following the show-ups the second victim was transported to Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital, per her request, to be examined due to the pain she was experiencing to her face where she was struck by Abraham.

Upon being interviewed at SBPD Abraham denied involvement in the attempted purse snatch or the battery. He said his arrest was the result of a case of mistaken identity. Abraham was booked at Santa Barbara County Jail for robbery and battery with a bail amount of \$50,000.00.

Photo provided by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department.



Abraham, Yemane

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